

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7863

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0483

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BTRA ETRD PINS LA US VN

SUBJECT: VISA PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN IN LPDR

1. AMERICAN BUSINESSMAN FRANK MANLEY, WHO RESIDES IN VIENTIANE, FINALLY SUCCEEDED MARCH 9 IN OBTAINING REENTRY VISA TO LPDR AFTER TRYING ABOUT A MONTH TO DO SO. MINISTRY OF INTERIOR GAVE MANLEY SINGLE EXIT AND ENTRY VISA ALLOWING HIM TO LEAVE WITHIN FIFTEEN DAYS FROM DATE OF ISSUE AND RETURN WITHIN TWO MONTHS. PREVIOUSLY HE HELD MULTIPLE EXIT AND ENTRY VISA FROM FOREIGN MINISTRY BUT THESE APPARENTLY NO LONGER BEING ISSUED EXCEPT TO MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.

MANLEY HAD WANTED TO OBTAIN VISA LAST MONTH TO ATTEND APCAC MEETING IN BANGKOK BUT LAO WOULD ONLY ISSUE HIM EXIT VISA AND HE WAS AFRAID IF HE LEFT HE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO RETURN TO CONTINUE OPERATING HIS BUSINESS HERE. HE THEREFORE ASKED "COMMITTEE TO HEAL THE WOUNDS OF WAR" IN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR TO SUPPORT HIS VISA REQUEST ON GROUNDS THAT HE HAD TO GO TO
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THAILAND TO EXPEDITE IMPORT OF HARDWARE BY UNHCR TO BUILD HOUSES FOR REFUGEES. HE NOTED THAT SHIPMENT HAD BEEN DELAYED AND HE HAD TO GO DOWN TO GET IT MOVING AND THEN RETURN TO LPDR. COMMITTEE APPARENTLY CONVINCED POLICE IN INTERIOR MINISTRY TO ISSUE VISA GOOD FOR ONE ROUND TRIP.

3. AT SAME TIME THAT HE WAS WORKING WITH COMMITTEE IN INTERIOR TO GET A VISA, MANLEY SUCCEEDED IN GETTING MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE TO WRITE A LETTER TO INTERIOR STATING THAT HE WAS DOING BUSINESS WITH LPDR IN SEVERAL AREAS, SUCH AS LAO AVIATION AND AGENT FOR ALLIS CHALMERS AND KODAK. MANLEY SAID LETTER WAS ON FILE IN INTERIOR AND HE THOUGHT IT WOULD ENABLE HIM TO GET ANOTHER REENTRY VISA NEXT TIME HE WANTED ONE.

4. HE ADDED THAT ANOTHER AMERICAN WORKING FOR HIM, WADE BREUER, WAS ALSO GETTING A SINGLE REENTRY VISA FROM INTERIOR BASED ON THE SAME IMPORT BUSINESS FOR THE UNHCR. A THIRD EMPLOYEE, LARKE GOLASKI, HOWEVER, HAS BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN A VISA BECAUSE NO GOVERNMENT AGENCY WILL STATE THAT HER RETURN TO LPDR IS IN ITS INTERESTS.

5. MANLEY NOTED THAT LPDR OFFICIALS HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD LAO WORKING FOR HIM THAT DECISION ON HIS VISA WOULD BE DELAYED UNTIL HIGHER LEVELS HAD A CHANCE TO FOCUS ON IT AFTER VISITING DELEGATIONS FROM COMMUNIST COUNTRIES LEFT TOWN.

6. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT FRENCH BUSINESSMAN HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONTINUE LEAVING AND ENTERING LPDR BY OBTAINING SERVICE PASSPORT FROM FRENCH EMBASSY.

7. JAPANESE BUSINESSMAN ALSO MANAGETO OBTAIN A THREE EXIT THREE ENTRY VISA GOOD FOR THE NEXT
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THREE MONTHS.

8. BRITISH BUSINESSMAN HAVE BEEN ABLE TO LEAVE AND REENTER COUNTRY BECAUSE THEY STILL HAVE VALID MULTIPLE ENTRY AND EXIT VISAS.

9. MANLEY ALSO NOTED THAT BREUER HAD VISITED VIETNAMESE EMBASSY TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE BUSINESS WITH SRV AND WAS WARMLY RECEIVED BY "PRESS ATTACHE" WHO TOLD BREUER WHICH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO WRITE TO IN VIETNAM TO DISCUSS IMPORTS OF GOODS.
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